MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TO: John Fitzgerald, P.E., Principal Sanitary Engineer JF

BY: Ida Babroudi, Senior Sanitary Engineer IB

DATE: March 26, 1987

SUBJECT: MIDDLETON - American Glue & Resin, Inc.
40 School Street, Middleton, MA 01949
Cheryl A. Auterio
(617) 774-7111
DEQE CASE NO. 3-168

On March 16, 1987, the writer visited the above-mentioned site. Two undergorund storage tanks (gasoline and toluene) were being removed and a number of boring and well installations were being done concurrently.

When the writer arrived on-site the top of the gasoline tank was already exposed. According to Chris Denfeld of ECS (the consultant) the stockpiled soil was screened by an H-NU and the instrument had registered 40 ppm as benzene. Note that this was not a head space reading. Apparently the fill pipe connection to the tank had been broken and the tank was full of water. According to Chris Denfeld the water in tank must have displaced whatever amount of gasoline was remaining in the tank, and the tank itself had not leaked as evidenced by the fullness of water. Note that another scenario was that the tank was filled with water once the use was discontinued?

After the tank was removed it was emptied to make it ready for shipment. Note that this was a 1,000 gallon tank as opposed to the 3,000 gallon capacity anticipated. The writer inspected the tank visually and did not observe any evidence of failure. The remaining soil in the pit was removed until groundwater was observed. The groundwater had a sheen on top. Further soil removal was discontinued due to cave-in conditions. Two samples were obtained by the writer, one near the top where a layer of discolored soil existed and the other from the base of the excavation. Headspace H-NU readings were 220 and 210 ppm as benzene, respectively. A monitoring well within 10' of this pit was installed. This pit was backfilled by a top soil pile on site that did not register anything significant on H-NU (<1).

Chris Denfeld indicated that samples from the brook behind the company had also been taken. Clean sand arrived later in the day and it was stockpiled on-site to be used as backfill material for the new toluene tank. As soon as the excavation started an extremely turbid water started rushing into the pit from the side nearest to the facility wall. The source of it was not identified. After this tank was removed it was emptied to make it ready for shipment. This tank appeared to be much more corroded than the gasoline tank but the writer did not observe any evidence of a leak. This one was confirmed to be a 3,000 gallon tank.

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The writer obtained two samples; one from a discolored area at the bottom (which seemed to have been discolored by the tank coating residual) of the pit and the other from an area that had collected most of the inflow mentioned above. Headspace H-NU readings were 1 and 150 ppm as benzene, respectively. Two monitoring wells are going to be installed right in the pit with the new tank as monitoring devices for the new tank.

Clearly, there have been releases. Whether they have been due to overfilling or pipe leaks may not really matter at this point. A good portion of the contaminated soil in the tank areas was removed and the existence of the monitoring wells will be to, hopefully, evaluate the success of the above-mentioned activity. The writer left the site before the new tank was going to be installed. Note that there may have been a necessity to dewater the pit before installation of the new tank. If so, the water was going to be stored on-site and then disposed off through the South Essex Sewerage District.

IB/gg